

specimens, the early Maoris, and possibly the early missionaries; but I have done a good deal of wandering in mata-gouri country and I have never before seen anything so high or so heavy. I have read somewhere, or been told, that our early settlers made furniture out of matagouri, and I can now believe that they did. There were a dozen or more specimens near this big one that would have yielded boards six to eight feet long and six to nine inches wide. But the day must be near when all that big stuff will have vanished. This note is in fact an obituary.

But I wish I knew how to spell the name. Though it is 100 years too late to try to recover the Maori word, it is a pity that we don't use a Maori word, and agree to spell it in one way. *Mata-gouri* is a verbal bastard, but at least gets near to the universal pronunciation. *Tumatakuri* and *tumatokuru* could both, I suppose, be Maori, but no one will ever say one or the other. I suspect that *tumatokuri* and *tumatokuru* are gallicised variations, and it would be hateful to have to fall back on *Discaria*. I tried for a year or two to say *mata-kauri* and abstained from spelling it; but that was an affectation of which, in time, I grew ashamed. In any case, it was as far as *matagouri* from *tumatakuri*. There seems to be nothing for it but to perpetuate illegitimacy.

I HAVE had two verbal shocks this week, one a little disturbing. First, I was astonished to find Sir Richard Burton saying, in *A Pilgrimage to Meccah and Medinah*, that a disciplinary measure applied to one of his companions was the Arab equivalent of "spification." We were often threatened with spification when we were children, and I continued,

when I had children of my own, to threaten them with the same punishment. I may even, when they were very small, have proposed now and again to spificate my grandchildren. But I did not suspect in any of these cases that I was perpetuating a threat many years older than New Zealand.

Nor did I suspect, until I came on the phrase the other day in an undated letter of W. H. Hudson, that Sir Winston Churchill may not have originated terminological inexactitudes. If he did, it is already more than 50 years since it happened; and that in itself would be a shock. Hudson was born in 1850, Churchill in 1874. Somewhere in his mid-sixties, but I can't find just when, Hudson complained that the Government of the day had sneaked into power on terminological inexactitudes (no quotes). If Churchill used the phrase earlier than that he must have coined it in his early thirties, and in that case I first heard it in my early twenties, which is more than I can take in. If I was not 40 at least before I heard it from Churchill, and if I did not join then in the newspaper laughter, I will submit to immediate spification (with or without quotation marks).

(To be continued)

HOUSEWIFE BURNED WHILE COOKING

Boiling water was not the cause, but burning indigestion. Instant relief was given by Ayrton's Heart-shaped Indigestion Tablets. Keep a tin in your kitchen, 3/3 for 40 tablets. At chemists everywhere. Made by Ayrton Saunders & Co. Ltd., Liverpool, England.

Shell Quiz No. 2

Well, what do you know?

- 1 If there are passengers in your car and it stalls on a railway crossing and won't start, the first thing to do is . . .
 - (a) Put the gear in neutral and restart the car
 - (b) Press the starter with the car in gear
 - (c) Signal the train to stop
 - (d) Get yourself and your passengers out of the car
- 2 The minimum safe distance behind the car in front when driving on the road is . . .
 - (a) One length for every 10 m.p.h.
 - (b) Fifteen feet
 - (c) Five lengths
 - (d) Two lengths for every 10 m.p.h.
- 3 The first luxury tourist hotel built by the New Zealand Government was constructed in 1902 at . . .
 - (a) Waitomo
 - (b) Milford
 - (c) Te Anau
 - (d) Waikaremoana
- 4 The Distributor in a car is . . .
 - (a) A device for distributing the correct amount of petrol vapour to the cylinders
 - (b) A compensator for overweight passengers
 - (c) A piece of equipment which distributes electric current to the spark plugs
 - (d) A gadget which ensures equal weight on all four wheels
- 5 The famous Shell emblem is an illustration of a . . .
 - (a) Sea egg (b) Mussel (c) Scallop (d) Abalone
- 6 If all the formed roads in N.Z. were laid end to end they would reach approximately . . .
 - (a) From Wellington to London
 - (b) Once round the world
 - (c) Twice round the world
 - (d) To the moon
- 7 An octagonal shaped road sign always means . . .
 - (a) Stop (b) Slow (c) Curve (d) Danger
- 8 The "octane" rating of petrol is . . .
 - (a) The amount of lead it contains
 - (b) A measure of its resistance to pinking
 - (c) Its specific gravity
 - (d) The number of miles per gallon it gives (N.B. Shell saves m.p.g.)

WHAT'S YOUR SCORE? (Ten points for each correct answer). 70-80—Excellent: 50-60—Good: 30-40—Poor: Below 30—Failed.

Turn upside down for correct answers.

1 (d), 2 (a), 3 (d), 4 (c), 5 (c), 6 (c), 7 (a), 8 (b).

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT PETROL?

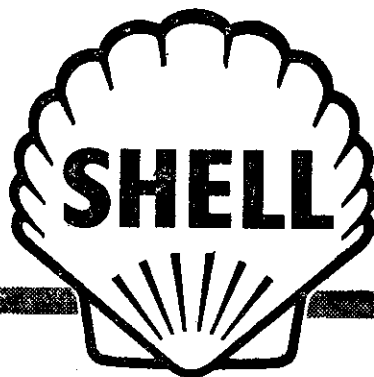
Summer Shell with I.C.A. gives greater mileage*. The extra miles you drive this summer won't cost you an extra penny — if you change now to Summer Shell. Two ways Summer Shell increases mileage per gallon: (1) Through the mile-melting power that Shell's exclusive I.C.A. restores to your engine while you drive, and (2) Through the dynamic difference that Shell's controlled volatility makes to starting and pick-up, when fuel demand is high. Want proof? Two tankfuls will convince you. Change to Summer Shell with I.C.A. today and see.

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